

Arab trade body suspends Egypt

KUWAIT, Feb. 15 (R). — The International Federation of Arab Trade Unions (IFATU) today suspended the membership of Egypt's labour federation for supporting President Anwar Sadat's peace policies. The decision was taken unanimously at an emergency conference of IFATU, attended by representatives of all member-states except Egypt and Tunisia, a federation spokesman said. The suspension will remain in force until the Egyptian federation takes a new stand in harmony with "the aims of Arab nations and aims and resolutions of IFATU" the spokesman added.

JORDAN TIMES

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Peres to visit Egypt in April

JERUSALEM, Feb. 15 (R). — The leader of Israel's opposition Labour Party, Mr. Shimon Peres, said last night he will accept President Sadat's invitation to visit Egypt at the end of April. Mr. Peres told reporters after meeting Prime Minister Menachem Begin here that he was looking forward to the visit to Egypt. Mr. Peres reported to Mr. Begin on his talk last week with President Sadat in Salzburg, Austria. Mr. Peres said he felt there were serious differences between Israel and Egypt on the question of peace, but he thought that not all the possible solutions had yet been explored.

King flies to London

LONDON, Feb. 15 (R). — His Majesty King Hussein arrived here today, piloting his own plane, for a short stay with his children Prince Ali and Princess Haya. He was met by Jordanian Ambassador Salah Abu Zeid, who told reporters the King's health was excellent and had nothing to do with his presence in Jordan of an American heart surgeon, Dr. Michael De Bakay. No arrangements have been made for meetings between the King and Prime Minister James Callaghan or any British ministers, although British officials said such meetings would be welcome. His Highness Crown Prince Hassan has been sworn in as Viceroy during the King's absence.

Syrian jeep is attacked in Beirut

BEIRUT, Feb. 15 (R). — Two soldiers attached to the peace-keeping force were killed and a third wounded when their jeep came under fire in a Christian suburb, informed sources said. The jeep was shot into the air by a sniper's bullet, and the soldiers were killed. The jeep was under fire from a sniper's position in the Christian suburb of Ain Al Rummaneh. The jeep was shot into the air by a sniper's bullet, and the soldiers were killed. The jeep was under fire from a sniper's position in the Christian suburb of Ain Al Rummaneh.

able rightwing sources the incident occurred after a Christian teenager had been shot dead in the city of Ain Al Rummaneh. Sources said the girl had been shot near the front line between Al Rummaneh and the adjacent Moslem district of Shi. The two districts were the scene of fierce fighting between Syrian troops and rightist army last week.

Rightwing sources said the incident started when a jeep was in collision with a private car and an angry mob gathered. One of the soldiers fired in the air to disperse the crowd and there was an exchange of fire. An official of the rightwing Islamist Party said members of the militia intervened, and a surviving Syrian to command headquarters. The incident had been confirmed by the Syrian army.

There was no word on the fate of the nearby killing of a girl, believed to be 12 years old. A resident of the Christian suburb of the city said "It seems everybody is being careful to provoke anything, but the atmosphere is very tense. It is no surprise the incident happened into a gunfight."

hewer Beirut was calm traffic built up during the following parliament's adjournment. A bill setting up a special security court to hold responsible for a six-week period between the Arab peace-keeping force and Lebanese army and Lebanese army forces exchanged fire with Palestinians in the south overnight. There were no reports of casualties or damage in the area between Qle' and Marjayoun, held by the Palestinian-alliance. Shaya Al Fukhar, on the border of the southern sector of the southern sector with Israel, was shelled at night the travellers.

Kuwait today the hard-line Front for the Liberation of Palestine (FPLP) accused of massing troops on the border with Lebanon. The FPLP is a militant group that has been active in the region. The FPLP is a militant group that has been active in the region. The FPLP is a militant group that has been active in the region.



Israelis look at the bus which was blasted in Jerusalem Tuesday night. At least two people were killed and 35 wounded in the explosion which ripped the back of the bus. Police have made several arrests and warned Israelis to be on the alert for a new wave of Palestinian guerrilla attacks. In Beirut, a Palestinian guerrilla organisation claimed responsibility for the blast which ripped out the back of the bus. It was the most daring act of resistance in Jerusalem for nearly two years. Police arrested several people from the occupied West Bank. Security forces and soldiers have begun a wide-scale search. Ten of the injured were still in hospital today, four in serious condition. Police warned the public to be especially alert for suspicious objects and the possibility of a new wave of parcel bombs. Israelis were told not to open any parcel arriving by mail from an unknown sender. (AP wirephoto)

U.S. rejects Israeli protest against sale

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15 (Agencies). — The United States today rejected an Israeli appeal against President Carter's decision to sell scores of fighter planes to Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

"This is a firm decision," a State Department spokesman said in Washington. "We have taken into account the views of others in making it."

Secretary of State Cyrus Vance said the sale will help peace.

Breakthrough scored in Rhodesian internal settlement negotiations

SALISBURY, Feb. 15 (R). — Black and white Rhodesian leaders today announced they had reached agreement in principle on the major points of a constitutional settlement and were within days of setting up a transitional government designed to lead the country to a black majority rule.

Premier Ian Smith, Bishop Abel Muzorewa, Chief Jeremiah Chimurenga and Dr. Elliott Gabellah, who was deputising for the Rev. Ndabengwe Sithole, told reporters after the 37th round of the so-called internal settlement talks that they had finally solved their differences over the key issue of white representation in a Zimbabwe parliament.

All four walked together, smiling and chatting, out of a red-brick suburban mansion where the talks have been taking place to give the news to reporters.

The negotiations had been deadlocked for the past three weeks over the question of how white seats would be elected to specially-reserved seats in parliament.

Bishop Muzorewa's United African National Council (UANC) could not agree with the stand of the three other parties that there should be a separate white voters roll for all 22 white seats in the 100-seat house.

Mr. Smith said today this point had been agreed following an ingenious compromise proposal. He did not say what the compromise was, stating that it was complicated and had to be written down before being released.

Asked how close a transitional government now was, Dr. Gabellah, standing about three feet from reporters, replied with a laugh: "As close as I am to you now."

Chief Chimurenga interjected: "It could be days."

Said Mr. Smith: "You've got your answer."

In Lusaka, Zambia, Joshua Nkomo, co-leader of the "Patriotic Front" guerrilla forces fighting against the white government in Rhodesia, said today the internal agreement reached in Salisbury "will not work."

"The war continues, we now know who the enemies are," Mr. Nkomo said.

Asked whether the front would agree to negotiation with an interim government in Rhodesia, Mr. Nkomo said:

Carter's decision on plane sales to Egypt, Saudi Arabia evokes angry Israeli response

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb. 15 (R). — Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin today condemned President Carter's decision to sell warplanes to Egypt and Saudi Arabia, and said it threatened Israel's safety. Mr. Begin told the Knesset: "Supplying these planes to Saudi Arabia and Egypt endangers Israel's security and the peace-making process."

He thanked the American president for his proposal to supply Israel with 90 fighters, but called on Mr. Carter to reconsider his parallel decision to arm Saudi Arabia.

The Middle East package includes 60 McDonnell Douglas F-15s, the world's most advanced fighter, for Saudi Arabia. Israel would get 15 more F-15s, in addition to 25 already purchased, and 75 less sophisticated General Dynamics F-16s. Israel is asking for 250 F-16s.

Egypt would buy 50 less capable, shorter-range Northrop F-5E fighters.

Mr. Begin said he hoped the United States would provide Israel with additional arms as President Carter's proposals did not meet all Israeli requests.

The Israeli premier will meet President Carter in Washington next month in an attempt to bridge their differences. The date has yet to be fixed. Defence Minister Ezer Weizman is expected to ask for more arms when he visits Washington at the beginning of March.

Mr. Begin said the planes for Saudi Arabia would be used against Israel if new fighting broke out in the Middle East. "Israel has knowledge that Saudi Arabia has already approved a certain Arab state that those planes will be at its disposal in the event of a new war against Israel," Mr. Begin said. He did not name the Arab state.

The announcement in Washington of the arms package deal shifted the focus of disagreement between the U.S. and Israel from the issue of Jewish settlements on territories occupied from the Arabs in 1967.

Mr. Begin said today the two countries differed on the question of the legality of the settlements but had "agreed to disagree" on the issue during talks in Washington last July. In Washington, U.S. sources said today that the United States believes its proposed sale of fighter planes to Egypt and Saudi Arabia would not substantially reduce Israel's military dominance in the Middle East.

U.S. military planners believe Israel could quickly defeat any combination of Arab forces for the next five years. The House Armed Services Committee made a similar finding earlier this month.

Comparing the F-5E with the two more capable fighters, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. George Brown, was quoted as saying: "I don't think anyone in their right mind would try and fly an F-5 against either of them."

The whole sales package is subject to congressional approval later this year. A senior Pentagon official said the delivery of F-5s could begin during the summer but that the other aircraft would not be supplied until late 1981.

In Los Angeles, Mr. Dayan told reporters he thought the package was premature. The U.S. should not sell weapons to Egypt until it had signed a peace agreement with Israel, he said.

Mr. Vance said on television that the Israelis had "made no bones in advance that they didn't like the decision" when they were told yesterday. Egypt was "very unhappy" they were not getting everything they were asking for," Mr. Vance said.

The U.S. previously only allowed the sale of military supplies such as transport planes, radar and communications equipment, to Egypt.

Senior officials said Saudi Arabia needed the F-15s to replace out-of-date British fighters. But representative Lester Wolff said he would try to block this part of the package.

He said the administration proposal "raises serious questions about the ability of our country to help preserve peace in the Middle East."

News Analysis

Is Carter now bent on a key test of strength with pro-Israel forces in U.S.?

By Rami G. Khoury
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, Feb. 15 — The decision by the Carter administration last night to recommend to the American Congress the sale of U.S. American fighter planes to Saudi Arabia and Egypt is likely to bring on the head-to-head confrontation between the Carter administration and the pro-Israeli forces in the United States that has been avoided by tacit and mutual agreement over the past months or so.

The key element in the timing of President Carter's decision to sell the planes to Egypt and Saudi Arabia, however, is that it comes at a critical moment for his relations with the Congress, with Congressional approval awaited soon on two key Carter legislative packages -- the Panama Canal treaties (which the Senate has to ratify with a two-thirds majority), and the U.S. energy programme, which has been stalled in the Congress for many months.

For President Carter now to introduce a major new element of controversy into his fragile ties with the Senate and the House of Representatives must be viewed either as a major blunder based on a serious misreading of his chances of getting approval for the arms sales, or a calculated and clever risk.

Congress and the Middle East

The peculiar vulnerability of President Carter before the Congress stems from his administration's mediocre performance in that arena so far, and the tie-in with the Middle East arms sale package is that the Congress -- particularly the Senate -- is the focal point, and the cutting edge, of the power of the pro-Israeli forces in the United States.

Those pro-Israeli forces have flexed their muscles twice already in the past six months on the very issue of selling American F-15 fighter-bombers to Saudi Arabia. Before the Congress recessed last year, the Carter administration was persuaded by some clear Senate signals to delay sending the proposed Saudi plane sale for Congressional approval.

Three weeks ago, a majority of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee again took the matter into the public arena -- where the pro-Israeli power is wielded most brutally in the United States -- and warned the Carter camp that the sale of the F-15 planes to the Saudis would be viewed as dangerous to Israel, and therefore was subject to a possible Congressional veto.

Now that President Carter has gone ahead and proposed the package deal of jet planes to Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Israel, it is certain that the Israeli leadership will get out most -- perhaps all -- of its forces in the United States in a coordinated effort to block the sale of the military planes to Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

The situation is further aggravated, from President Carter's position, because the joint American-Soviet statement on the Middle East, issued last October, tremendously upset the Israelis, who immediately increased their American-based pressure on the Carter administration. State Department sources intimately involved in the Middle East told the Jordan Times that after the Soviet-American statement was issued, letters of complaint poured into the White House at a rate of over 5,000 per day.

Eye-ball-to-eye-ball

In effect, after the Soviet-American statement in October, the Israelis perceived that the Carter administration was serious about bringing about a more or less full Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories and a recognition of ill-defined "legitimate Palestinian rights", and they decided to muster the pro-Israeli forces in the United States to make sure that Mr. Carter would move no further towards the Arab position.

Public support

Mr. Carter may now feel that his public speaking on the matter and the American people's changed perception of Mr. Sadat, and all the Arabs by implication, may have set the stage for a test of strength with the Congress.

There is only one force -- outside naked national interest -- that can possibly blunt the pro-Israeli sentiment in Congress, and that is an overwhelming display of public opinion behind the president. If Mr. Carter has decided to test the full fury of the pro-Israeli lobby in America, it is probably because he now feels that he has enough public understanding and backing to face up to the pro-Israeli legislators who have relied for their

power on the unexamining and unquestioning nature of the American public with regards to the Middle East.

Mr. Carter also probably calculated that the package deal giving Israel the F-15s and F-16 fighter-bombers it wanted would sweeten the pill that the Congress was being asked to swallow. But it is already clear from the almost reflexive reactions of several key legislators that the three sales to the three countries will be treated separately.

expect the current to continue in Basam Abu Al Qabas. Also charged groups of armed Palestinian fighters expected to assassinate the president of the United States in Lebanon. These are the latest reports from the region.

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Will Mr Carter's package fly?

The Carter administration's decision to propose to Congress a package deal of military jet plane sales to Egypt, Israel and Saudi Arabia will not alter the strategic balance of power in the Middle East, but rather is designed as a slick political pattiative and a pat on the back to all three states. As such, it is probably going to cause Mr. Carter more problems at home and abroad than he needs right now, and we suggest that the real importance of the event is in the implications it has for Mr. Carter's domestic political position.

The Israelis made it clear several weeks ago that they would oppose the sale of F-15 fighter-bombers to Saudi Arabia, or even the lightweight F5-E fighter jets to Egypt. But Mr. Carter was cornered, because a) he was faced with the situation where the arms sales were seen by the Saudis and Egyptians as signs of American friendship, and b) he found himself in the rather awkward position of having to provide the political payoff to Egypt that Mr. Begin did not produce in reply to the Sadat initiative. Mr. Carter had no choice really but to sell planes to Egypt and Saudi Arabia, and to make the selling acceptable to Congress he coupled the deals to the Israeli request for F-15 and F-16 jets.

But Mr. Carter also knew that any military jet sales to Egypt and Saudi Arabia would evoke a great deal of opposition by the pro-Israeli forces in the United States, forces that wasted no time in making their objections known, as we saw from the quick statements, only hours after the news of the proposed plane deals, by such unswerving pro-Israeli regulars as Senators Clifford Case and Daniel Moynihan. Thus Mr. Carter's real battle is now in front of him, as he works to push the package deal through a hostile Congress. His determination in keeping the package intact will be a major new signal to the Arabs and the Israelis about precisely how serious he is in facing up to the Israeli forces and pushing through his own Middle East policies.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL DUSTOUR, on Wednesday, said Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan has now invented a new illogic when, during his Jewish fund-raising trip to Chicago, he said that Jordan's refusal to take a place at the "negotiations table" with Israel is a "major obstacle" in the path to peace. Mr. Dayan, of course, forgot to mention anything about Jordan's clear position on these negotiations. As His Majesty King Hussein recently told Agence France Press, Jordan will not join these talks until they prove their seriousness and that must be proved by Israel's commitment to a specific agenda of peace on the basis of United Nations Resolutions 242 and 338. This would include withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and the guarantee of Palestinian self-determination on Palestinian soil. Mr. Dayan, who knows full well the Jordanian position, is only trying to "pull a fast one" on the world and is clearly showing Israeli bad intentions.

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132 merchants sentenced

AMMAN, Feb. 15 (JNA). — A Martial Law tribunal here has fined 132 merchants between JD 30 and JD 100 for profiteering and disobeying instructions of the Supply Ministry. The court also ordered closure of three shops for the same reasons.

Iraqi minister arrives

AMMAN, Feb. 15 (JNA). — The Iraqi Minister of Transport, Jamal Makram arrived here this evening on a few-days official visit to Jordan for talks with Jordanian officials aimed at strengthening general relations between the two countries.

The Iraqi Transport Minister told the Jordan News Agency he and members of his delegation are glad to visit Jordan and hold talks aimed at promotion of cooperation between Iraq and Jordan in all fields. He said the geographical position of both Jordan and Iraq requires them to achieve more cooperation in all spheres, particularly in transport and shipment of commodities.

The Jordanian and Iraqi sides will begin their official discussions tomorrow, Thursday at the Ministry of Finance. Jordan's delegation to the talks is headed by Minister of Finance, Dr. Mohammad Dabbas with Minister of Transport, Ali Suhaimat, Under Secretary of the Ministry of Customs Yassin Al Kayed, Under Secretary of the Ministry of Transport Hashem Al Taher and Assistant Director of the Aqaba Free Zone, Ismet Abu Al Saud as members.

OBITUARY

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UNESCO official to attend science policy conference

PARIS, Feb. 15 (JNA). — United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation Assistant Director General Abdul Razzaq Qaddourah arrives in Amman Friday to attend the Science and Technology Policy conference due to be held in Amman Saturday.

During an interview with the Jordan News Agency reporter in Paris Dr. Qaddoura praised the existing cooperation between Jordan and UNESCO which was strengthened by the organisation's director general last November visit to Jordan when he met with His Majesty King Hussein.

Crown Prince visits Fifth Armoured Div.



Crown Prince Hassan meets men of the Fifth Armoured Division on Wednesday. (JNA photo)

AMMAN, Feb. 15 (JNA). — His Highness Crown Prince Hassan this morning visited the Fifth Royal Armoured Division where he was welcomed by the division's commander and top officers.

After listening to an account from the Division's commander on training, administrative and technical activities scheduled for the present training year, the Crown Prince made an inspection tour of all the division's formations and units.

Prince Hassan also presided at a non-commissioned officers' day ceremony held at one of the Fifth Armoured Division's formations. The ceremony programme included competitions in arms dismantling and assembly and shooting. At the end of the ceremony the Prince distributed prizes and cups to the winning teams.

Local credit increases

AMMAN, Feb. 15 (JNA). — Credit facilities offered by commercial banks to various sectors in Jordan during last December increased by a total of JD 17,356,000 over the same period in 1977. Facilities given to the agriculture sector during the period amounted to JD 3,049,000; to the industrial sector JD 4,781,000 and to building and land purchase sector JD 2,838,000.

Facilities to tourist, hotels and restaurants sectors as well as to craftsmen and individuals during the same period increased by a total of JD 2,614,000.

Fodder supply available to Irbid chickens

IRBID, Feb. 15 (JNA). — Six thousand tons of fodder will be made available daily from next month to cover poultry consumption in the Irbid governorate, sources at the poultry farms society said today. The society has installed a JD 2,000 band mill for supplying its 21 members with their poultry-fodder requirements.

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4. Advertisements are not accepted over the telephone or telex, and guaranteed insertions on specific dates can only be assured by sending in the advertisements so they reach the Jordan Times office at least two days before the required day of publication.
5. For the minimum price of JD 3, the advertiser will have published an advertisement of three centimetres on two columns, which will have a maximum of 30 words, including the headline and telephone numbers to be called. The JD 3 charge is for one insertion; two insertions cost JD 6, three insertions cost JD 9, etc.
6. For a larger ad, the rates are JD 4 for 40 words and JD 5 for 50 words.
7. You can take advantage of the Jordan Times advertising by mail facility by completing the form below and mailing it with full payment in cash only to:

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Advertisers in Jordan must pay in Jordanian dinars; those in Syria may pay in Syrian currency at the going conversion rate.

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مكتبة الامم

Saudi Arabia introduces oil production ceiling at 8.5 million barrels per day

NEW YORK, Feb. 15 (R). — Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, has imposed a production limit of 8.5 million barrels a day, the Chairman of Exxon Corporation, Mr. C. C. Garvin, said yesterday. Mr. Garvin said the limit, two million barrels below the country's maximum potential daily output, applied to production by the Arabian American Oil Company (ARAMCO), a consortium of four U.S. oil firms including Exxon and the Saudi government.

Mr. Garvin was speaking at a news conference in Washington.

Authoritative oil industry sources said the ceiling was about 500,000 barrels a day less than Saudi Arabia has been producing in recent months. Precise figures are kept secret by the Saudis.

It is the first time since late 1976 that such a limit has been applied.

Oil industry sources suggested three reasons for the ceiling.

One was a current world oil surplus, caused by more efficient use of petroleum and the still sluggish economies

of some industrial states.

Another possible reason was that Saudi Arabia wanted to signal to other members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) that it would keep production in line to support OPEC prices.

The third possible explanation, the sources said, was that oil production normally rises in the second half of the year and falls off during the first half.

Although the 1977 average daily production in Saudi Arabia has been estimated at just over nine million barrels daily, production in the last

three months went as high as 9.5 million barrels a day in December.

But last month this figure fell off significantly, oil industry experts believe.

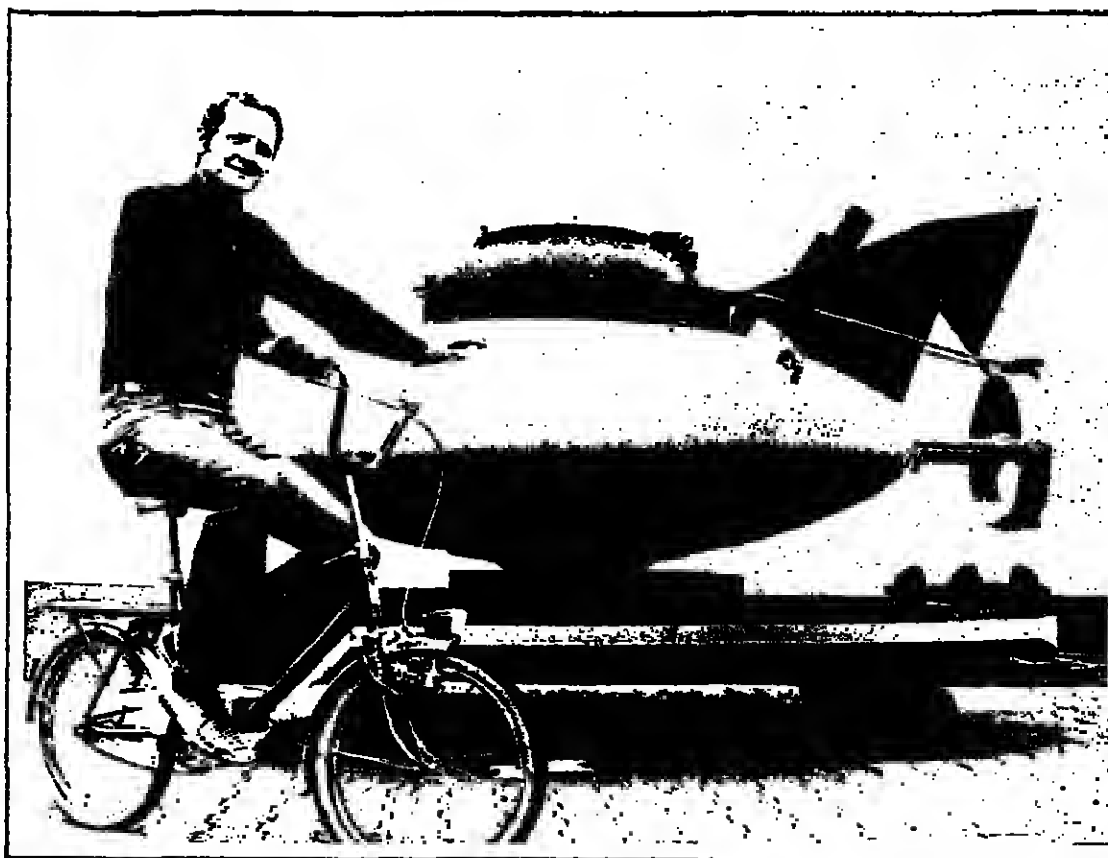
The industry sources told Reuters ARAMCO would probably have no trouble respecting the 8.5 million barrel ceiling.

The company, responsible for nearly all Saudi oil production and marketing, would probably not have produced much more than that anyway, the sources said.

Last year was the first time that average daily production from Saudi Arabia exceeded

nine million barrels. The average for 1976 was 8.3 million barrels a day, and for 1975 was 6.8 million.

Despite the current 8.5 million barrel per day ceiling the Saudi government had reiterated plans to increase potential production to around 14 million barrels a day by the early 1980's, Mr. Garvin said.



Pedalling across the Atlantic

Hans Butgerff, a 39-year-old mechanic from Astheim, Germany, is posing alongside his pedal-powered "flying saucer". It is in fact a specially-designed submarine in which he plans to pedal-power a three-phase current generator that will take him across the Atlantic. He reckons he can cross the Atlantic from Gran Canaria to Barbados by Shant's pony, powering his own electric motor to drive the screws. In preparation for his imaginative solo bid he is undergoing a punishing training schedule to keep fit. It includes 800 kms. by bicycle to make sure that his muscles are attuned to keeping those pedals on the move. (Dad photo)

Gulf states meet U.N. body agrees on to coordinate compromise proposal for oil tanker safety

ABU DHABI, Feb. 15 (R). — Central bankers from six Gulf states opened a two-day meeting here today in an attempt to coordinate their monetary policies.

The official Emirates News Agency said that Saudi Arabia and Oman were participating as full members for the first time in a quarterly meeting of the central bankers of the gulf which has been held regularly for the last three years.

Saudi Arabia has attended previous meetings as an observer but Oman has never taken part.

Today's meeting followed last month's revaluation by three states -- UAE, Qatar and Bahrain -- of their currencies against the U.S. dollar.

The coordinated revaluation is expected to be discussed by the bankers.

The first day will be devoted to reports on the economic, monetary and banking policy in each country, officials said.

The second day will be for an open discussion of coordination of banking policy and the monetary situation in the region, they said.

LONDON, Feb. 15 (R). — Maritime and oil-producing nations in conference here yesterday agreed on ways to reduce oil pollution from tankers by installing safety systems.

A spokesman at the United Nations Inter-governmental Maritime Consultative Organisation (IMCO), which sponsored the two-week meeting, said all 60 states taking part had agreed on a compromise proposal.

This generally allows tanker owners to choose either a costly retrofit for all existing vessels to put in separate seawater ballast tanks or the less-expensive

installation of a high-pressure spray cleaning system. New vessels would have to have both systems.

The proposal will go to a plenary meeting of the conference today and will come into force when a certain number of governments yet to be fixed -- has agreed to it.

Much of the world's oil pollution is caused when tankers empty their ballast tanks to take on oil. They need to carry seawater when not loaded to give them stability and keep their propellers in the water.

The United States had pressed for compulsory refitting

of existing tankers with separate ballast tanks, but dropped the demand in the face of opposition from many states on the grounds of cost.

The U.S. was supported by Norway, Sweden, Greece, Morocco and Portugal. The British-favoured washing system was preferred by Japan, Holland, Italy, East and West Germany and some developing nations.

In the compromise, ships over 40,000 tons must have one of the systems, but smaller vessels would need only to install a simple system to pump their non-explosive exhaust gases into oil tanks to make them safer.

Saudi Arabia has assured continued use of dollar in oil price setting, says U.S. Treasury secretary

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15 (R). — Treasury Secretary Michael Blumenthal said yesterday the major industrialised nations were confident they could maintain growth and still avoid upsetting the world economy by sharp currency fluctuations.

He told a news conference after a three-day trip to Europe that Saudi Arabia had assured him it would continue to set oil prices in dollars and so avoid weakening the U.S. currency further.

Mr. Blumenthal met the finance ministers of Britain, Japan, France and West Germany jointly in Paris and had a private meeting with Saudi Arabian Finance Minister Sheikh Mohammad Ali Abal Khalil.

Mr. Blumenthal commented on the suggestion last month by Kuwaiti Oil Minister Abdul Muttaleb Al Kazimi that the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) should find another unit of currency for oil prices.

He said the Saudi Arabian finance minister had already promised him that the Saudis had no intention of taking part in such a shift.

U.S. jet fighter costs surge

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15 (AP). — The estimated cost of the U.S. navy's new F-14, already the most expensive jet fighter in history, is climbing by more than 45 per cent to \$29.7 million apiece, military sources say.

The sources say a quarterly report will show that the cost of an F-14, the navy's chief fighter aircraft, is going up by about \$9.3 million.

At the same time, the price of an F-18 fighter -- described by Defense Secretary Harold Brown as "a low-cost complement to the F-14" -- is rising

by about \$2.2 million to \$18 million each.

The air force's two prime fighters, the F-15 and F-16, also are registering cost boosts, sources said, but much less than the navy aircraft experienced.

The F-15, designed to defeat any known Soviet fighter, is up by about \$200,000 a piece to \$18.1 million, U.S. President Jimmy Carter has proposed selling 15 of these planes to Israel and 60 to Saudi Arabia.

The F-16, the air force's lightweight fighter, is increasing

by about \$900,000 dollars to \$10.8 million. Mr. Carter has proposed selling 75 of these aircraft to Israel.

The sources said much of the increase in the costs of the F-15, F-16 and F-18 is blamed on projected inflation in the years the planes are being produced.

Part of the big rise in the cost of the last 162 F-14's to be purchased, however, is said to result from a decision to stretch out F-14 production. Next year the navy will buy 24 F-14's instead of the 36 that the navy requested.

Egypt holds investment meet

CAIRO, Feb. 15 (R). — A one-day conference on progress achieved so far in investment projects and difficulties encountered by investors in Egypt was held here yesterday.

Addressing the opening session, Prime Minister Mamlouk Salem said that under the country's open-door economic policy, investment projects were completed in the past two years with a capital totalling about 575 million Egyptian pounds (about \$826 million).

Mr. Salem said this was in addition to projects carried out in free zone areas in Egypt totalling 271 projects.

The conference was attended by representatives of foreign investors in Egypt, as well as Egyptian economic officials.

Mr. Salem said the open-door economic policy was a basic national strategy.

Carter calls in coal miners, mine owners for negotiations

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15 (R). — President Carter called on coal miners and mine owners to come to the White House for negotiations yesterday aimed at ending an 11-week strike.

If the stalemate goes on Mr. Carter said he might use his powers to order 160,000 striking workers back to the pits -- a move he has resisted while, during a bitter winter, U.S. coal stocks have shrunk dangerously low.

The strike threatens to cause mass lay-offs and power cuts in the U.S. Middle West. Most outdoor and advertising

lighting was ordered turned off in Indiana. Ohio was expected to follow suit.

Virginia was considering rationing electric power. Western Pennsylvania power companies were seeking permission from state officials for power cuts.

The present stalemate cannot be allowed to continue, the president declared.

To our readers

The Jordan Times is pleased to be able to resume regular daily publication of the London stock market report, the London closing gold price and the London foreign exchange rates. We suspended publication of these financial services because of our erratic reception of the information every evening did not allow us to publish the features on a daily basis. Technical factors have now improved to the point where we are reasonably sure that the information will be available every day.

In the near future, we hope to expand this financial news section by publishing a daily report from Wall Street, along with the weekly Wall Street report that we now publish every Sunday on this page.

— The editor

Iceberg towing gets a stamp of credibility

ADELAIDE, Australia, (AIS) — The first International Conference on Iceberg Utilisation has decided to seek governments' support for an Australian professor's plan to use icebergs to water arid lands.

There are hopes that a co-ordinated international assault on the problem could begin in the Antarctic this year.

Professor Peter Schwerdtfeger, who is the Professor of Meteorology and Director of the Institute for Atmospheric and Marine Sciences at Flinders University in Adelaide, the South Australian capital, persuaded the Australian government two years ago to send a five-man study team to the Antarctic as the first serious step in investigating the proposal.

Reports of this reached the Saudi Arabian government which jointly, with the French Central Commerce Organisation, CICERO, sponsored a preliminary conference in Paris in June, 1977 to examine Professor Schwerdtfeger's proposition in more detail.

That meeting, decided to call the first International Conference on Iceberg Utilisation in the United States of America at Ames, Iowa.

This time the Saudi Arabian government's co-sponsor was the United States National Science Foundation.

"In short," said Professor Schwerdtfeger, "the idea of

towing icebergs to arid countries has had the stamp of credibility placed upon it and if the plan can become a reality it will mean more to the world -- and particularly the Third World countries -- than even the greatest feats of space exploration."

Professor Schwerdtfeger, who represented Australia at the American conference with Flinders University colleague, Mr. Jonathan Job, a chemical engineer, said he had been greatly impressed by the number of positive and practical scientific papers presented at the meeting.

Because the international GI-

bal Atmospheric Research Programme (GARP) was due to be launched in the Antarctic during 1978, this would be an ideal time -- with so much scientific equipment and manpower assembled there -- to begin the first stage of a feasibility study on iceberg towing, he said. The sponsors hoped to persuade governments to support the study in conjunction with GARP.

"Since icebergs are usually avoided like the plague, what needs to be done is to use available satellite technology to select a suitable stable iceberg and land a data gathering team of scientists on it to compile a life history of its dynamics and thermal characteristics," Professor Schwerdtfeger said.

Once we know how icebergs behave as they melt, and at what rate and in what conditions they disintegrate, we should be in a position to try test tows in areas remote from shipping lanes," he said.

Professor Schwerdtfeger said the final stage of the feasibility study would be a full tow and processing of the iceberg at a previously determined destination.

Because Australia was ideally placed for such an exercise, it seemed likely that a beaching position would be decided on at either the eastern or western end of the Great Australian Bight.

Professor Schwerdtfeger held talks in Australia late in 1977 with Mr. George Mougha, Managing Director of Iceberg Transport International Limited, of Paris, which is retained as an advisor to the Saudi Arabian government.

The professor said he had little doubt that the Saudi Arabian government would be

willing to finance an iceberg towing feasibility study, provided it had "appropriate indications of support from other governments such as those of the United States of America, the United Kingdom, France and Australia, perhaps starting with an indication of support through GARP."

It was amazing to observe the speed at which the project had become "totally respectable," he said.

"Before the June Paris conference many scientists refused to take us seriously; after the Paris talks many offered us cautious support; but after the October, Iowa conference, even the most cautious were admitting that there could be something in it," Professor Schwerdtfeger said.

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

Jordanian fils	Buying/selling
U.S. dollar	313.00/315.00
U.K. sterling	606.00/610.00
W. German mark	149.60/150.50
Swiss franc	162.90/163.80
French franc	64.60/65.00
Italian lire (for every 100)	36.50/36.70
Japanese yen (for every 100)	130.10/130.90
Dutch guilder	139.90/140.70
Belgian franc (for every ten)	96.20/96.80
Swedish crown	66.90/67.30

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON, Feb. 15 (R). — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies against the dollar at the close of inter-bank trading on the London foreign exchange market today. Tourist rates will differ from those quoted below.

One sterling	1.9340/50	U.S. dollars
One dollar	2.0855/70	West German marks
	2.2330/50	Dutch guilders
	1.9185/9200	Swiss francs
	32.43/45	Belgian francs
	4.8440/90	French francs
	857.65/858.15	Italian lire
	240.55/70	Japanese yen

LONDON MARKET REPORT

Government bonds closed up to 3/4 lower while equities lost up to 10p Wednesday as the market continued to react to the 179 mln U.K. January current account deficit, dealers said. At 15:00 hrs. the F.T. index was down 7.5 at 432.2.

Bonds were marked down by up to 1-1/2 point initially but rallied on cheap buying. Prices were marked down again by up to 1/4 temporarily following news of a larger than expected rise in the U.K. December earnings figures.

Gold shares firmed with the bullion price while U.S. and Canadian issues closed steady to lower.

Bowaters, Fisons, Glaxo, ICI, Thorn, Guest Keen, Hawley Siddeley, Tube Investments, Bechams and Unilever lost between 3p and 10p. Lucas gained 1p. Oil shares fell by up to 5p although Royal Dutch rose by 7/16 to 38-15/16 stg. National Westminster gained 1p, while other bank shares lost up to 5p.

Dairy rose by 3p to 227p following interim results. Rhodesian issues gained slightly following news Rhodesian leaders were close to a constitutional settlement, dealers said.

Gold price not received.

EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 20, 1978

PIA
Pakistan International

INTRODUCES NEW SCHEDULE EVERY TUESDAY

Damascus
Amman Abu Dhabi Karachi

TUESDAY	TUESDAY
PK 254	PK 253
7:00	7:00
14:45	12:25
15:30	11:35
16:20	10:45
21:10	09:35
22:00	08:15
Wednesday 00:50	07:00

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INDIAN RESTAURANTS

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, FEB. 16, 1978

Your **HOROSCOPE**

from the CARROLL-RIGHTER INSTITUTE

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day when you can easily employ your finest mental qualities to achieve greater success in your line of work. An excellent time to put across your ideas to others.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You can communicate well with others now and get excellent results. Sidestep one who could be detrimental to your best interests.

AURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Make a sensible plan which could give you greater income. Confer with a good friend for advice you need.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Make plans to gain your social aims early in the day. Allow time for enjoyment in the company of good friends.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Delve deep into a new plan you have and gain the backing of friends. An increased devotion to the one you love.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Make long-range plans which will give you greater abundance in the days ahead. Show lively members you are most devoted.

IRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Contact influential persons and gain their backing in a new project you have planned. Avoid a troublemaker.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Know your best mode of expression for the future and delve right into it. You rely on your intuition at this time.

CORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Keep promises made to others in a most precise way and get excellent results. Live for more harmony with loved one.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Come to a better understanding with your associates. Situations arise that show how best to solve perplexing problems.

APRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Do whatever will give you more accord between you and associates. Express piety with loved one tonight.

QUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Put your finest skills to work and make rapid gains in career matters at this time. Be active and strive for happiness.

SCISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Do some entertaining at home and make a fine impression on others. Study a new before putting it in operation.

PEANUTS

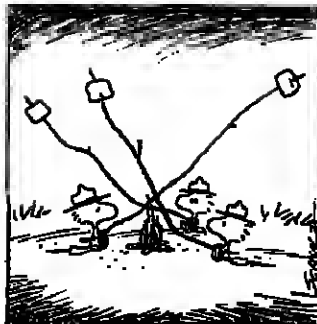
FOR OUR LAST NIGHT OUT I'VE PLANNED SOMETHING SPECIAL



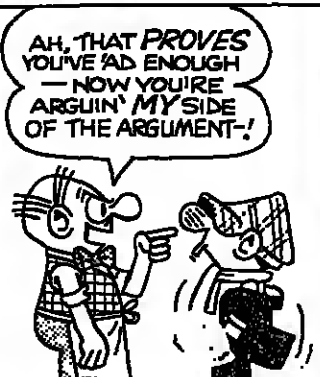
HOW ABOUT A MARSHMALLOW ROAST?



I'LL BUILD THE FIRE...YOU GET YOURSELVES SOME NICE LONG STICKS...



ANDY CAPP



MUTT & JEFF



THE FLINTSTONES



CORED BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
© 1978 by Chicago Tribune

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AKJ10 ♥Q7 ♠954 ♦K1098
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one diamond. What action do you take?

A.—It is not our practice to overcall in a four-card suit, but this is an exception. You are too strong to wait for the auction to develop, yet you can't afford to double because of your heart shortage. If you double and then bid spades over partner's heart response, you would show a stronger hand with at least a five-card suit.

Q.2—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠93 ♥874 ♦K194 ♠KQ107
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Dble. ?

A.—Your response is a matter of style. If you play that a simple raise shows abject weakness while a jump raise shows values without being forcing, three clubs stands out. But if you believe that a jump raise over a double shows a distributional hand with no particular high-card strength, a simple raise to two clubs is all you can afford. You are a trifle weak for a redouble.

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠1095 ♥863 ♦AK ♠KQ983
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ 1 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass ?

A.—Since you have opening bid values, you must make an effort to reach game. However, the auction has developed awkwardly for you. For the moment you should do no more than raise to three diamonds. Perhaps that will encourage partner to try three no trump if he has a spade stopper.

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South with 80 on score you hold:
♠7 ♥KQ1076 ♦K982 ♠Q83
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ 1 ♠ Dble. Pass ?

A.—This is close. Obviously partner expects to beat one spade, and with your defensive values, the set should be sure. However, the fact that you have three clubs might detract from partner's defensive capacity. We would try to complete the rubber by bidding one no trump—not two hearts, for partner's double should be based on heart shortage.

Q.5—As South vulnerable, you hold:
♠854 ♥AK ♦AK10 ♠AJ98
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
Pass Pass 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass ?

A.—Your hand rates one move toward game—a pair of aces and a five-card suit is a useful holding when opener raises your suit. Since you want partner to evaluate his entire hand, rather than a specific holding in one suit, we would make a general game try by rebidding three hearts.

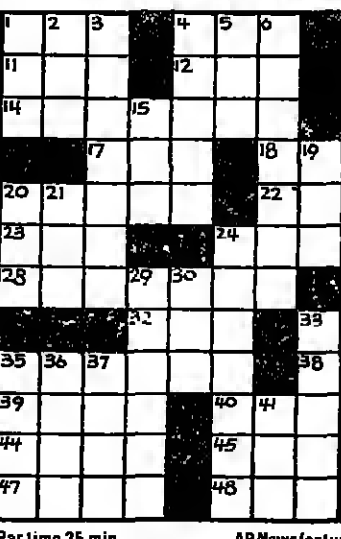
Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠854 ♥AK ♦AK10 ♠AJ98
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
Pass Pass 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass ?

A.—Considering our wealth of high cards outside the spade suit, partner must have a very good suit to make a jump bid even though he is a passed hand. A leap to six spades would be criticized, but we would content ourselves by raising to five spades. This pinpoints our concern about the solidity of partner's suit.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1. Jujube
4. relief
7. Fashion
11. Part of be
12. Distress
13. Elliptical
14. Grandeur
16. Tidy up
17. Chew
18. Hydrated sodium car-
20. Bonate
22. Greek long E
23. Choose
24. Exact by way of fine

DOWN
28. Prompts
31. Imitate
32. Creek
33. Electric unit
35. Throughout
38. Its fruit is the samara
39. Dill
40. Happiness
44. Blue-footed petrel
45. Scandinavians in Russia
46. Arika
47. Sweetest
48. Language spoken in Ghana
49. Understanding 5. Holm



Per time 25 min. AP Newsfeatures 2/9

FINAL STAG
RETIREES HOME
ES. LENT ARE
ATE AD OK
LINES PROSIT
IVAN WIT UME
ZAT NOT WEPT
ELEVEN SUTRA
YOUR KILT PU
ECRU REVISES
SANS ATONER

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

DOWN
1. Cheat
2. Age
3. Excludes
4. Moistened
5. Holm
6. Craftiness
7. Used with a pestle
8. Completed
9. Pedestal part
10. Southern col-
15. Sound per-
19. Siamese coin
20. Eye worm
21. and
24. Cabinet
25. Characteristic
26. Brazilian
27. Spread to dry
29. Eye inflam-
30. Envy
33. Escutcheon
34. High in pitch
35. Information
36. One
37. Network
41. Bossy
42. Bishopric
43. Longing

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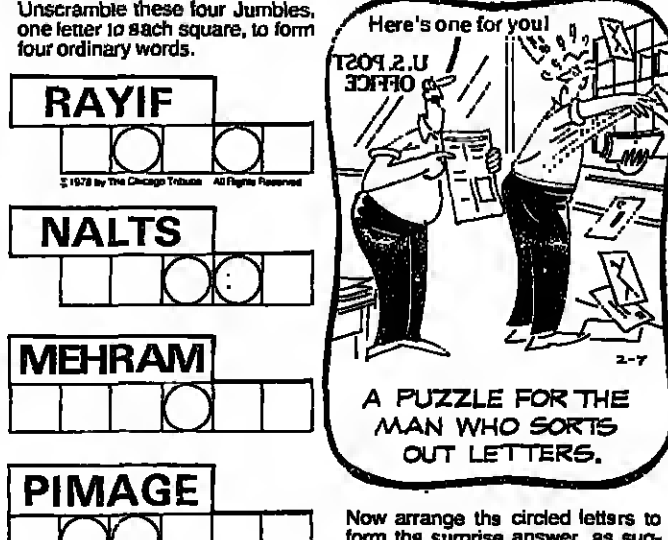
THE BETTER HALF. By Barnes



"Very funny, Horriet! Your cartoon of me on the both-
room mirror!"

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Print answer here: AN (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: AWFUL BANJO RANCIID FRENZY
Answer: What the day following a day off
sometimes is—AN OFF DAY

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION

Channel 3 & 6:
6:00 Quran
6:15 Cartoons
6:30 Little house on the prairie
8:00 News in Arabic
10:03 Morning show
11:00 News in Arabic
Channel 5:
7:30 Arabic programme

RADIO JORDAN

7:00 Morning show
7:30 News bulletin
8:00 Morning show
10:00 News headlines
10:30 Morning show
10:30 Happy journey
11:00 Signing off
12:00 News headlines
12:30 Pop session
13:00 News summary
13:25 Pop session

EMERGENCIES

Doctors:
Amman: Abdul Aziz Abu Khalaf (22320)
Najaf (23038)
Hussein Youth City (63273)
Pharmacies:
Amman: Sababeh (23137)
Hayat (24236)
Firas (31912)
Viceroy (44554)
Abdali (36121)
Irbid: Fakhri Swelidh (2340)
Zarga: Yafsa Tureini (28884)
Taxis: Venesia (44584)

BBC RADIO

GMT
5:00 News: 24 Hours
5:30 Sarah Ward
5:45 World Today
6:00 News: Press Review
6:30 Banners and Bonnets
7:00 News: 24 Hours
7:30 Sarah Ward
7:45 Cider with Rosie
8:00 News: Reflections
8:15 Music of Two Cities
8:20 Farming World
9:00 News: Press Review
9:15 World Today
9:30 Financial News
9:45 Wales and the Welsh
10:00 London's Musical
10:30 Vintage Comedy
11:00 News: News about Britain
11:15 Schabell Plays Beat-
11:30 Business Matters
12:00 Radio Newsnet
12:15 Top Twenty
12:45 Sports Round-up
13:00 News: 24 Hours
13:30 New Ideas

VOICE OF AMERICA

GMT
03:00 The Breakfast Show: 03:00, 04:00, 05:00 and Reports: VOA Current News Summary: 03:30, 04:30 and 05:30 GMT
An informal presentation of popular music with feature reports and interviews, answers to listeners' questions, Science Digest.
17:00 News Roundup, Reports, Actualities, Opinion, Analyses, News Summary
17:30 Dateline
18:00 Special English News.

AMMAN AIRPORT

Arrivals:
5:45 Damascus (SAA)
7:40 Cairo (EA)
7:55 Doha, Kuwait
8:00 Bangkok, Bahrain
8:15 Kuwait (KAC)
8:20 Damascus
8:30 Beirut
8:40 Riyadh (SDI)
8:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi
11:00 Cairo
17:00 London
18:40 Beirut (MEA)
20:35 Amsterdam, (KLM)
24:30 Rome (AZ)
02:25 Rawalpindi (BA)

Departures:

6:00 Damascus, Munich, Frankfurt (LH)
6:30 Damascus (SAA)
7:00 Beirut
7:40 Cairo (EA)
8:15 Kuwait (KAC)
8:20 Riyadh (SDI)
11:00 Athens, Madrid
11:30 Cairo
12:00 Rome, New York
12:00 Paris, London
18:20 Baghdad
01:15 Dubai (AZ)
02:25 London (BA)

CULTURAL CENTRES

American Centre (USIS) Tel. 41520
British Council Tel. 36147-8
French Cultural Centre Tel. 37008
Goethe Institute Tel. 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre Tel. 44203
Amman Municipal Library Tel. 36111

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Ambulance (government) Tel. 75111
Civil defence rescue Tel. 24391-4
Fire headquarters Tel. 22000
Fire station Tel. 18
Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency) Tel. 36381-2
Jordan water services (emergency) Tel. 37111-3
Police headquarters Tel. 39141
Najaf roving patrol rescue police (English spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency help Tel. 21111, 37777
Airport information (AIA) Tel. 35205

Bomb blast persuades Commonwealth meet to form anti-terror body

BOWRAL, Australia, Feb. 15 (R). — Leaders of 12 Asian and Pacific nations, shocked by a bomb blast two days ago, today agreed to work together to combat terrorism. Indian Prime Minister Morarji Desai told reporters: "We must find some ways of checking terrorism and seeing that it disappears. A committee will be set up for that as a result of our meeting here."

Commonwealth leaders are holding 48 hours of informal talks at a luxurious manor house here inside a cordon of armed troops and police.

The strict military security and the decision to move the regional talks to this rural township 130 kms. south of Sydney followed Monday's bomb blast outside the original Sydney conference site.

The blast killed two people and injured nine others, including four policemen. Hundreds of battle-equipped troops who were rushed here yesterday were withdrawn from the township itself before dawn today to man strongpoints several kilometres away.

Meanwhile, Australian authorities offered a 100,000 Australian dollars (U.S. \$213,000) reward for information leading to the arrest of the bombers who intelligence sources said may have been anarchists.

Informed sources said several of the leaders conferred with Australian Prime Minister.

All life is in space dust, says scientist

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15 (R).

An American scientist suggested today that all the ingredients for life are contained in the gases and dusts which swirl throughout the Universe.

Dr. Raymond J. Talbot, of Rice University, told the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science that astronomers had used new techniques for radio astronomy to identify many molecules necessary for life in the interstellar medium (ISM).

Scientists had no techniques at present to detect some molecules but "there is every suggestion that they are there," he said in a paper to be delivered at the meeting.

Dr. Talbot said many of the molecules already discovered are those contained in the "primordial soup" which had been produced in laboratory experiments.

"This fact raises the possibility that the phenomenon we know as 'life' maybe a natural, common, universal advanced stage of interstellar organic chemistry," he said.

He said the complex organic molecules found in space, once thought to be a lifeless void between the stars, are now believed to be atoms moving about on the surfaces of small silicate grains which astronomers refer to as dust.

Except for the size and degree of complexity, Dr. Talbot asked rhetorically, was there any difference between those complex interstellar particles and the large silicate grain we know as Earth?

"It is not unreasonable," he said, "to regard life as simply one supercomplex component of the interstellar medium."

ter Malcolm Fraser on ways of providing closer cooperation between intelligence and security forces in the Commonwealth to prevent attacks such as the Sydney bombing.

Anti-terrorist moves were expected to be announced by the Commonwealth leaders in a final communique now being drafted by their foreign ministers in Sydney.

The communique will be issued after the regional conference officially closes tomorrow.

It is expected to call on all countries to stop harbouring terrorists and to tighten security against attacks.

There were two security scares early today. One sent police racing to surround a small van less than 1.5 kms. from the manor where the talks were taking place.

Police discovered a Spanish-born labourer asleep under the influence of liquor in the van. He was arrested when a search revealed a loaded .44-calibre Winchester rifle in the van.

Later, the sound of what were reported to be shots from the farm proved on investigation to be a youth cracking a whip after a party.

Tremors hit east, central Turkey

ANKARA, Feb. 15 (R). — A series of medium-strength tremors shook eastern and central Turkey today, damaging more than 300 houses and injuring a dozen people, according to first reports. The Istanbul Observatory said the main quake measuring between five and 5.5 on the open-ended Richter scale had its epicentre near the eastern town of Izumlu 1,000 kms. from Istanbul. Local officials said they received reports from only 15 of the 67 villages in the quake area because communications had been affected by heavy snowfalls.

Filipino rebels split?

MANILA, Feb. 15 (R). — The Philippines Defence Department said today it had documentary proof of a split in the leadership of the southern Moslem rebel movement, the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF). The MNLF has been seeking at least autonomy for the minority Moslems in the largely-Christian Philippines. The Defence Department said the document showed that the MNLF's long-time, Libya-based Chairman, Nur Misuari, had been replaced by his number two, Hashim Salamat. The document was reported to have been filed with the Islamic Conference in Jeddah last Dec. 24 and to be circulating among MNLF field commanders in the southern Philippines Island of Mindanao, where sporadic fighting continues despite a ceasefire arranged in Dec. 1976. So far there have been no comments from either Mr. Misuari or Mr. Salamat, from the Islamic Conference which has been trying to mediate in the conflict since negotiations collapsed last April.

By Patrick Massey

TULKAREM, Occupied West Bank, (R). — Arab leaders on the West Bank are pessimistic about the chances of peace resulting from negotiations between Egypt and Israel.

In interviews with Reuters, the mayors of leading West Bank towns insisted that unless Jewish settlements were removed from Arab land there can be no peace.

This opposition to Israeli settlement emerged as perhaps the sorest grievance among Arabs who have been ruled for nearly 11 years by an Israeli military administration.

"If Israel wants peace it has to give up these settlements," said Mayor Hilmi Hanoun of Tulkarem, a town close to the 1967 Israeli border.

"We cannot understand why

the Palestinians have not the right to their own state when Israelis who have nothing to do with the West Bank are coming from all over the world and settling in that part of Palestine which is our land and not their land. The Israelis want all of Palestine as a Jewish state."

Sadat should stop

Mayor Hanoun said he thought President Anwar Sadat should have given up his peace initiative after Israeli-Egyptian disagreements became plain at the Ismailia summit in December.

"The Israelis are doing things against the wishes of Sadat by building settlements after his visit to Jerusalem," Mr. Hanoun said.

"We don't believe what Sadat is doing will bring peace.

He should go back and try again among the Arabs and try to find a real settlement." This view was largely echoed by Deputy Mayor Zafer Masri of Nablus, largest and most fiercely nationalistic town of the West Bank.

"People here were upset by Mr. Sadat's visit to Jerusalem but we so much want relief from the occupation that people hoped the visit might bring a settlement," Mr. Masri said. "But as things are we don't see much progress."

Arab demonstrations

Publicity over the settlements lately has aroused regular street demonstrations in Nablus. Arab teenagers gather on the streets and clash with the Israeli military.

But the Jewish settlers now rarely venture into Nablus. "When we travel around the area," said one settler at nearby Shomron camp, "we always take a machinegun in the car."

Deputy Mayor Masri said: "We are not prepared to accept these settlements on Arab territory. We have conceded enough by agreeing to limit our Palestinian state to this side of the 1967 border."

"We are not raising the issue of refugees ousted from Israel in 1948 so how come we are asked to share our pre-1947 area with Israel?"

1947 borders preferred

In general the mayors appear to have resigned themselves to accepting the existence of an Israeli state behind the 1967 borders.

"Of course," said Mayor Hanoun, "we would prefer to settle for an Israel inside the borders laid down in 1947 (by the United Nations Partition Plan for Palestine). But if we cannot get 1947 it should be something like 1967."

The leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organisation are well educated and understand the world. They have prestige among the Arabs. It is very difficult for the PLO to ac-



Mr. Bassam Al Shak'a, Mayor of Nablus



Mr. Elias Friej, Mayor of Bethlehem

cept Israelis in Haifa, Jaffa and so on because the refugees would be against this.

"But they understand this is the only thing they can take and they can persuade the Palestinian people this is so."

Not all the West Bank leaders are prepared to admit they would accept an Israeli state. In an interview some time previously, Mr. Masri's senior, Mayor Bassam Al Shak'a, was asked if he thought a Palestinian state on the West Bank would satisfy Arab aspirations.

"First let us get peace and we will see," Mr. Al Shak'a replied.

The abiding Israeli fear, as claimed repeatedly by Prime Minister Menachem Begin and his predecessors, is that a Palestinian state would swiftly fall under Soviet domination, thereby placing the Jewish state in peril.

"Of course this is nonsense," said the mayor of Tulkarem. "Any Palestinian state would be a weak state. We would not be able to make trouble for a state which is already powerful enough to fight all the Arab World."



Italian Magistrate, Dr. Riccardo Palma, 63, fell back on the front seat of his car when he was shot dead by a hail of machine-gun fire in Rome on Tuesday morning. A leftwing guerrilla band called the Red Brigades claimed responsibility for the murder -- the fifth political killing in Rome this year. The murder has overshadowed crucial moves by Prime Minister-designate Giulio Andreotti to form a new government and end Italy's month-long political crisis. Signor Andreotti was due on Wednesday to send a policy programme to the five political parties that propped up his previous government until its collapse last month. The Red Brigades, who have often stated their intention to "de-stabilise" Italian society, showed they are clearly aware that the timing of their latest murder would have a delaying effect on Signor Andreotti's talks with crisis could easily last into next month. (AP wirephoto)

Libya, USSR discuss Mideast, Africa

MOSCOW, Feb. 15 (Agencies) — Major Abdel Salam Jalloud, a member of the ruling secretariat of the Libyan People's Congress, today briefed Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev on Arab moves to counter Egypt's peace initiative towards Israel, and discussed the situation in the Horn of Africa, Tass news agency reported.

Tass said Maj. Jalloud informed the Soviet leader about the decision of a recent three-day summit of Arab leaders opposed to the Egyptian moves in Algiers to coordinate their opposition.

The Tass report said Maj. Jalloud and Mr. Brezhnev agreed that the Egyptian-Israeli talks were obstructing the establishment of a just peace in the Middle East, and damaging Arab interests.

The Soviet Union strongly backs Damascus and Tripoli in their opposition to Egypt's direct contacts with Israel, and has provided substantial aid to both countries.

Libya is reported to have pl-

edged \$2 billion to Syria to finance additional military and economic aid, much of it from the Soviet bloc.

The Libyan aid commitment to Syria, according to western military sources in Damascus, was a secret decision taken at the Algiers conference early this month.

Maj. Jalloud is the latest in a series of visitors to Moscow from Arab states opposed to the Egyptian peace initiative. Diplomatic sources said a senior PLO official has also paid a secret visit to Moscow.

At today's Kremlin meeting the two men emphasised the importance of consolidating the progressive forces of the Arab world, and strengthening their mutual understanding with their natural allies the communist bloc, Tass said.

On the war in the Horn of Africa, the two leaders agreed that Ethiopia and Somalia should settle their differences peacefully on the basis of mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, Tass said.

Preservatives or fertilisers contaminated Israeli fruit, official Italian tests show

BERGAMO, Italy, Feb. 15 (R). — Italian health officials said last night that Israeli grapefruit containing mercury had not been sabotaged but poisoned accidentally before export.

Dr. Mario Torda, head of the Provincial Hygiene Office, told Reuters: "We have ruled out the possibility that the contaminated fruit was sabotaged. It must be accidental poisoning through something like a fertiliser or preservatives."

The grapefruit were found late last week in this northern Italian town after a two-week alert in Europe for Israeli oranges injected with mercury. An unknown group claiming to be Palestinian has said it tampered with oranges from Israel in an attempt to damage the Israeli economy. But the Palestine Liberation Organisation denied any knowledge of the group or the affair.

Dr. Torda said that second tests yesterday showed that the grapefruit were contaminated with much smaller levels of

mercury than at first thought, ruling out the possibility that the fruit had been injected.

The grapefruit had 0.01 part to a million of mercury in them, not two parts to a million as first tests indicated.

"The level of mercury is so minute that it could not have been introduced through an injection," Dr. Torda said. "It must have been absorbed."

"We cannot say from here what caused the contamination but it can only be something like anti-parasite spray, a fertiliser or a preservative," he added.

But Mr. Eliahou Douek, Commercial Attache at the Israeli Embassy in Rome, denied that the fruit had been contaminated in Israel.

"There is no possibility that fruit leaving Israel has mercury in it," he told Reuters.

Authorities have banned the sale of grapefruit throughout Bergamo Province and Milan. Shopkeepers throughout Italy reported yesterday that demand had dried up in the wake of the discovery of the contaminated fruit.

There have been no reports of serious illness among people who have eaten the poisoned fruit in Europe.

But Israel's parliamentary Economic Committee Chairman Gad Yacobi has said Israel will lose up to \$30 million in citrus exports if the present drop in sales to Europe, caused by the scare, continues. He did not say until when.

China clears Teng of blame for 1976 riots

PEKING, Feb. 15 (R). — Chinese Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping has been cleared publicly for the first time by name of responsibility for bloody riots which erupted in Peking's central Tian An Men Square in April, 1976. The riots led to his temporary political eclipse.

The February issue of Red Flag, organ of the Communist Party Central Committee, exonerates Mr. Teng of blame in the riots and accuses the purged "gang of four" extremist leaders of having maliciously slandered him.

Some Western diplomats interpreted this as marking Mr. Teng's full rehabilitation following his return to power in mid-

1977. The campaign against remaining extremist influence in China is still in full swing.

The Tian An Men Square riots erupted on April 5, 1976, after authorities removed the bodies of the late Premier Zhou En-lai who had died the previous January.

Tens of thousands of people had gathered in the huge square on the traditional Festival of the Dead. A number were injured and cars and a building set ablaze in the disturbances.

The People's Daily, the Communist Party newspaper, said last December the "gang of four" had gone mad after the riot, using it to further their own ends.



W. German cabinet crisis averted

BONN, Feb. 15 (R). — A row over new West German anti-terror legislation which threatened defeat for the fragile coalition government of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt was patched up last night. Leftwing rebels in the Social Democratic Party (SPD) agreed on a compromise package of laws. They had earlier threatened to vote against the original proposal when it returned for second reading in the Bundestag (lower house) today. The said they still intended to vote against the modified bill on the grounds that it infringed basic human rights, but coalition partners said this would not prevent the government achieving a two-vote majority.

Libya ready to fight Rhodesia, S. Africa

TRIPOLI, Feb. 15 (R). — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi said yesterday that the Libyan Jamahiriyah was ready to send troops to fight the white minority regimes in Southern Africa, the Jamahiriyah News Agency (JANA) reported. He told the opening session of Liberation Committee of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) that his country was also willing to fight alongside nationalist movements in Southern Africa to help them achieve freedom and independence.

British all-party immigration parley?

LONDON, Feb. 15 (R). — British Labour Prime Minister Jim Callaghan last night offered to hold all-party talks on immigration, which has recently become a heated political issue. During noisy exchanges in the House of Commons yesterday, Mr. Callaghan said that without an all-party agreement race could "disturb British society with hatred." Conservative opposition leader Margaret Thatcher raised the race issue in a television interview last month, calling for a "clear end" to immigration to assuage fears among Britons they might be "swamped" by immigrants.

Soviet Belgrade declaration draft rejected

BELGRADE, Feb. 15 (R). — Western and neutral countries rejected last night a new Soviet draft designed as a final declaration for the European security conference on East-West détente, human rights, American delegate Arthur Goldberg said the Soviet proposal lacked any substance or detail and did not ensure fulfilment of the 1975 Helsinki accords.

Bella Abzug defeated in Congress poll

NEW YORK, Feb. 15 (R). — Flamboyant New York politician Bella Abzug suffered a narrow but surprising defeat in a bid to return to the House of Representatives. The controversial Democrat, known for her floppy hats and caustic tongue, had held 10 percentage point lead for most of the night, in the battle to fill a Congressional seat left vacant by the election of Mr. J. Ward Koch as New York's Mayor. She had already been declared the winner by the city's news organisations when, just before midnight, the tide suddenly turned and Republican opponent William Green picked up a last-minute surge of votes.

Missing W. German rightist found alive

MUNICH, Feb. 15 (R). — A rightwing party official who disappeared two days ago was found alive near here today after an unknown group claimed to have kidnapped him. Police said Dieter Huber, 30, Foreign Affairs Adviser of the Christian Social Union (CSU), was suffering from shock but was otherwise well. He told police he was thrown out of a Volkswagen van containing several men near the town of Hohenbrunn.

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